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GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE AND MAPS.

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BOOK NOTICES.

Remaking the Mississippi. By John Lathrop Mathews. 261 pp., Illustrations and Index. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1909.

This book describes the Mississippi River and its tributaries and explains in a comprehensive manner the work which has been done upon these streams for the control of the waters and the regulation of the channels. The chapter headings show the scope of the work: The Mississippi System; The Hydrology of the System; Controlling the Major Bed; Levee Building and Maintenance; The Minor Bed: Regularization; The River Mouth; The Upper Mississippi; The Missouri; The Ohio, and Canalization; Lakes-to-the-Gulf; The Tributaries; The Utilization of the Channels.

The author is a strong advocate of the reservoir system as a corrective measure and, in the main, he treats of the possibilities of reservoirs in moderate terms. Occasionally he sees a vision of future prosperity which is not presaged altogether in the premises, thus:

"In the reservoirs thus established in the heart of the Bad Lands will be found, first, a steadying influence on the stream; second, a means of settling and collecting suspended earth; third, a source of supply for irrigation and of power for pumping; fourth, perhaps best of all, a decided influence on the climate, producing by evaporation an added moisture for the air, which will not be without its effect upon the surrounding country. Trees will be planted along the river banks; and the added moisture, aided by irrigation, will be used to transform such of the adjacent regions as can be reached by pumping into farm lands, and much of the rest into forest tracts, thus cutting down to a minor factor the erosion of the soil."

The writer has confined himself largely to the historical development of the works on the rivers and the description of the present stages of the works. The book will be found useful to anyone who desires a concise account of the Mississippi River problem. In it may be found detailed accounts of the various kinds of levees and revetments, descriptions of locks and dams used in canalization, an explanation of the function of the jetties, and much information concerning this extensive river system. The text of the book is more modest than its title.

R. M. B.

Une Croisière sur le Nil. Khartoum-Gondokoro. Par Cap. E. A. d'Albertis. 262 pp., many Illustrations and Map. F. Diemer (Finck & Baylaender Succ.), Cairo, 1909 (?). Fr. 5.

This is a new edition of the finely illustrated volume in which Captain d'Albertis described the journey by steamer between Khartoum and Gondokoro as he saw the country along the Nile in 1904. The volume is brought up to date by an appendix. Part I, not noticed in the title, is a description of the Assuan reservoir and a statement of its economic influence upon Egypt. Part II gives the story of the journey on the White Nile and describes the country and the